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ABSTRACT

Five educators developed a list of the greatest challenges facing education and careers today. The resultant list is two pages in length and contains 21 briefly-expressed ideas. There is no additional supporting text. Among the challenges identified were the following: (1) making career education (CE) the centerpiece of school improvement at the local and state levels; (2) engaging the employment community within a formal, broad-based structure such as an industry-education council or alliance; (3) involving industry in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of CE staff development/inservice programs and curriculum development; (4) responding to the Department of Education's likely downplaying of vocational education as a response to labor force development; (5) responding to the decreasing role of school counselors as guidance is given over to labor/community groups; (6) helping students make career choices and prepare for actual careers; (7) raising levels of education in thinking and basic skills; (8) stressing curriculum areas' relevance to work and leisure; (9) providing training and education to keep individuals employable throughout their life span; (10) developing/implementing comprehensive collaborative K-12 CE systems; (11) focusing on integrating CE concepts into the total curriculum; (12) establishing career information systems within labor market areas; (13) identifying and communicating forecast blended career opportunities; (14) enabling the United States to compete globally; and (15) helping individuals change careers. (MN)

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American Association For Career Education

AACE Forum: Trend Watch

What are the greatest challenges facing education today?

Donald Clark, Harry Drier, Mary Ann Fastook, Polly Liss, Marilyn Tellez

- Career education must become the centerpiece of school improvement at the local and state levels. A clear mission statement, goals, and objectives for career education must be included in an educational system's or institution's general statement of mission. Donald Clark

- Educators need to engage the employment community within a formal broad-based structure such as an industry-education council or alliance under the leadership of an industry-education council director. Donald Clark

- Involve industry in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of career education staff development/inservice programs and curriculum development. Donald Clark

- Vocational education will be downplayed as the Department of Education response to manpower development, and the Department of Labor will take/make the opportunity to re-label and administer it. Harry Drier

- Guidance will be given over to labor/community groups, and, thus, the demise of the school counselor. Harry Drier

- Improving education that prepares students for actual careers. Mary Ann Fastook

- Inculcating an attitude that is partial to lifelong learning. Mary Ann Fastook

- Raising level of education in thinking, as well as in math, reading, and writing skills. Mary Ann Fastook

- K-12 educators in too many districts still do not realize how important their role is in helping students become aware of their career choices and how to prepare for them. Polly Liss

- Educators need to stress in many ways the relevance of their curriculum areas to work and leisure. Polly Liss

- What kinds of training and education will keep an individual employable throughout a life span? Marilyn Tellez

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AACE Forum: Trend Watch

What are the greatest challenges facing careers today?

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- Developing and implementing a comprehensive collaborative systemwide K-12 career education system with an emphasis on staff and curriculum development and instructional materials. Donald Clark

- Focusing on integrating career education concepts into the total curriculum as the priority rather than the overemphasis on student-oriented activities which continue to receive most of the attention of educators. Donald Clark

- Establishing a career information system within a labor market area that provides data and trends on goods and services jobs at the regional, state, and national levels. A school-based job placement function is central to a career education system. Donald Clark

- Schools/homes will not be able to keep current and communicate the new blended career opportunities that are forecast. Harry Drier

- The Information Highway will provide opportunities for communities to show new careers being generated for K-12 in a wealth of mediums. Harry Drier

- Develop satisfying and remunerative careers. Mary Ann Fastook

- Have United States become competitive globally. Mary Ann Fastook

- Elaborate on the relationship between foreign language acquisition and multicultural awareness. Mary Ann Fastook

- Some careers are so new and are evolving continually and rapidly, making it difficult to know much about them and how to prepare for them—yet students need to know. Polly Liss

- How to find a good fit throughout life, as people will have to re-career often. Marilyn Tellez